

REMARKS

Claims 17-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 19 and the specification are amended. Reconsideration of the present application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Specification Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the specification because of an informality. The specification has been amended to obviate the objection. Specifically, the paragraph beginning on page 16, last paragraph, and ending on page 17, line 3, has been amended to replace reference character "30B" with reference character "30b." Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action rejects claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the feature "thin-film-forming surface," recited in claim 19, lacks antecedent basis and is unclear. Claim 20 is rejected based on its dependency on claim 19. As such, claim 19 has been amended to recite "forming a self-assembled film on said liquid arranging surface." Antecedent basis for "liquid arranging surface" is found in claim 17. As such, the withdrawal of the objection to claims 19 and 20 is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 17, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0114887 A1 to Furusawa in view of either the alleged applicants admitted prior art (AAPA) or U.S. Patent No. 6,235,605 B1 to Ping, and Japanese Patent Publication No. 2000-012465 A (JP 465); and claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Furusawa in view of either the alleged AAPA or Ping,

and JP 465, in further view of International Publication No. WO 00/59044 A1 to Furusawa.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner correctly noted in the Office Action, the December 28, 2000 foreign priority date of the present application predates the December 27, 2001 filing date of Furusawa. Enclosed is a Verified Translation of the Priority Application, Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-402809, filed December 28, 2000, to perfect the claim for priority. Therefore, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0114887 A1 to Furusawa is disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). As also correctly noted, Furusawa does not constitute prior art under any of the subsections of 35 U.S.C. §102.

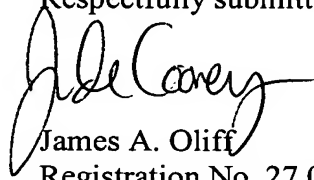
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections are moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JLC/cmf

Attachment:
Verified Translation of Priority Document

Date: July 23, 2004

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